

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 31, 1995, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall No. 73, and thus my vote on the Collins amendment to H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on agreeing to the amendment.

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, and urge my fellow colleagues to do the same.

I introduced legislation requiring a balanced budget constitutional amendment in 1973. Admittedly, much has changed since that time. The necessity for a constitutional budget amendment, however, has not. Indeed, after the astronomical increases in our national deficit in the past years, I would argue that this amendment is even more necessary today. Frankly, we have lost much time since 1973, and we cannot afford to wait any longer.

Thomas Jefferson first proposed the concept of a constitutional limit in the Federal Government's ability to spend and borrow money. At that time, our Government was not shackled with enormous debts and interest payments. At that time, our Government had not mortgaged the futures of our children and grandchildren by replacing fiscal responsibility with fiscal folly.

A constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget will not single-handedly erase our debt. We will all have to make serious and difficult decisions in the next months. We will drastically cut spending. I would argue, however, that this amendment will provide each of us here with the discipline sufficient to make those tough decisions.

Unlike other statutory schemes enacted in recent years, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution cannot be changed or repealed by Congress. Upon ratification, Congress and the administration will be forced to enact those choices required to bring Federal spending in line with Federal receipts.

Mr. Chairman, as a veteran of many debates on the merits of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, I ask that my colleagues join me in strong support of this amendment. It's the right thing to do, and now's the time to do it.

CONGRATULATES THE GUAM GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, two troops came to Guam in March 1935 and marched right into the halls of George Washington High School. These were the girls in green, from kindergarten to their senior year of high school, and they became a chartered council of the Girl Scouts of America in 1937. The Guam Girl Scouts now consists of more than 750 active members, and in March 1995 we celebrate their 60th Anniversary on Guahan.

Many districts across the country are blessed with their units of this fine organization. The Guam Girl Scouts in my home district have become assets in every one of our villages and military installations.

The goals of the Girl Scouts program are expressed in four programs, all of which promote higher quality of life on the island. The programs are: Developing Self-Potential, Relating to Others, Developing Values, and Contributing to Society.

The girls work in the community and earn badges by completing activities centered around an interest. The five "Worlds of Interest" in Girl Scouting are the World of Well Being, the World of Out-of-Doors, the World of People, the World of Arts, and the World of Today and Tomorrow.

This year, Guam's Girl Scouts spearheaded the Kobe relief project to aid Japan's earthquake victims. More than 400 volunteer hours were devoted to sorting, counting, packaging, and labeling more than 30,000 items donated from Girl Scouts and Guam's residents.

Guam Girl Scouts also conducted a food drive for Catholic Social Services, participated in the Sugarplum project and collected clothes for Goodwill of Guam, all projects completed in the past year.

Yes, we on Guam are lucky. Our Children can receive an informal education through the Guam Girl Scouts. The girls who join enjoy many fine programs which enhance and extend their abilities and strengths. Our future leaders are getting the best kind of training through services to the community.

COMMEMORATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR 4693

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Congress that throughout this great Nation, our Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese-American communities will celebrate the new lunar New Year.

Today, January 31, 1995, marks the year 4693, the Year of the Boar in the Chinese astrological calendar. During this festive season, Korean families will eat their traditional mandukook and duk, the Vietnamese their banh chung and banh tet, and the Chinese their dumplings and precious mooncakes. Families will reunite at homes and at large banquets, and observe traditional rituals which

stretch back centuries in these ancient cultures.

Mr. Speaker, San Francisco is a city built by immigrants who have come to our shores. Each has enriched and invigorated our Nation through their hard work, their family values, and through the cultures and traditions they bring to the American experience. Today, in San Francisco, and other communities throughout the Nation, we should honor the Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese-American communities, and wish them a happy new year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I was, unfortunately, detained in my congressional district in Baltimore earlier today and thus forced to miss a record vote. Specifically, I was not present to record my vote on rollcall vote No. 76, on the amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN of California.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO FOUR HEROS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of four U.S. Army chaplains, 1st Lts. George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington, and Alexander D. Goode, each one of different faith, who worked together and gave their lives in an effort to save others in a selfless act of heroism.

Fifty-two years ago, on February 3, 1943, the SS *Dorchester*, an Army transport vessel, was in the North Atlantic en route from St. John's NF, to Narsarsuak, Greenland, transporting 904 passengers, in addition to some cargo. At approximately 3:55 a.m., the *Dorchester* was torpedoed without warning.

The torpedo hit the ship just aft of amidships, near the engine room. The explosion was muffled and there was very little noise, but the concussion was severe. The ship took on water at such a fast rate that in a matter of just 25 minutes, it was lost.

In that short time, it was the bravery of Lieutenants Fox, Poling, Washington and Goode, the four chaplains aboard the *Dorchester*, that saved the lives of many. According to many survivors, the chaplains, with complete disregard for their own safety, quieted the panic of men frozen by fear at the ship's rail, forcing them into boats and lifejackets. They handed out life belts from a box, and when those were gone, they gave their own to enlisted men. Additionally, they helped construct makeshift rafts out of timbers, cork, and other materials at hand. The only concern of these brave men was to do everything they could to save the lives of the others on the transport. Chaplain Goode even gave his gloves to another man, despite the bitter cold, knowing that having those gloves might help him survive. The recipient of the gloves did indeed survive, and

credited his survival to the selflessness of Chaplain Goode.

When these four brave men had done everything humanly possible to help those on board, and when the end was imminent, Lieutenants Poling and Fox, both Protestants, and Washington, a Roman Catholic, and Goode, who was Jewish, joined hands and prayed together as the ship went down.

Because of their bravery, these four heroic men were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Additionally, in 1960, this body awarded Fox, Poling, Washington, and Goode the Congressional Medal for Heroism. This medal was specifically created to honor these men, and they are the only four to have received it.

The SS *Dorchester* was built at Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., and was originally a passenger liner when delivered in 1926. With the commencement of the United States involvement in World War II, the owners chartered it to the Army Transport Service to transport personnel and cargo. In Newport News today, the memory of the four chaplains is kept alive by the efforts of the Four Chaplains Memorial Committee, and with the marble and bronze monument that was erected in their memory in 1989 at the War Memorial Museum grounds. Let us keep alive their bravery their actions embodied, by remembering their heroism today.

RENEW AMERICA WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, three organizations from my home State of New Mexico will be recognized for their accomplishments in effective, responsible environmental projects. Lighthawk of Santa Fe, the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice of Albuquerque and the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network of Las Cruces will all be recognized by Renew America as winners of the National Award for Environmental Sustainability.

I am especially proud of the fact that New Mexico, which has one of the smallest populations of any State in the Nation, is home to three Renew America award winners. That figure is more than any other State in the Nation, with the exception of California with seven winners, and a far larger population base than New Mexico.

Lighthawk, which is known as the Environmental Air Force, is based in Santa Fe, NM, in my district, but their impact has been felt throughout the Nation and the world. Since its creation in 1979, Lighthawk and its group of pilots have flown more than 2 million miles to far-flung locations throughout the Western Hemisphere to educate the public, empower local environmental groups, and respond to environmental crises. Lighthawk flies activists, legislators, and the media over and into endangered lands, allowing individuals to learn first-hand of environmental problems and situations. I have flown with Lighthawk in the past, and I am especially pleased that they have received such significant recognition.

Project Del Rio, in cooperation with the University of Michigan's Global Rivers Environmental Education Network conducts a program that brings students and educators together from over 100 schools located along the Rio Grande both in the United States and Mexico. Using equipment, background, motivation, and resources provided by Project Del Rio, students learn to interpret scientific information, public opinion statistics, and economic data. Since its founding in 1990, many of the programs' participants have gone on to use the experience they gained while with Project Del Rio to win internships in other, similar fields.

The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, based in Albuquerque, NM, works to address issues that impact people of color and to strengthen community organizations and encourage them to influence local, State, regional, and national policies regarding the environment. The network has been considered essential in restoring long overdue justice in the areas of unsafe working conditions, natural resource exploitation, and political disempowerment. In addition to this award the Southwest Network has been involved in many successful media campaigns, which have opened up communication channels between environmental activists, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Lastly Mr. Chairman, the Southwest Network has been instrumental in promoting the examination at the Federal level of the broad range of environmental justice issues.

Mr. Speaker, these New Mexico-based organizations truly are wonderful examples of the dedication of citizens across the country to environmental protection and education activities. I would like to salute my constituents' organizations and the other Renew America Winners for their accomplishments and contributions. They deserve our thanks and our appreciation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMON SENSE WELFARE ACT OF 1995

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. KOLBE, to introduce the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act of 1995. We believe this legislation could revolutionize the way we deliver social services to the Nation's poor.

Over the course of the last 60 years, government, whether it be Federal, State, or local, has assumed almost complete responsibility over caring for the Nation's poor. Like it or not, our welfare delivery system has essentially become a government monopoly. And it exhibits all of the worst symptoms: It is woefully expensive; it is overly bureaucratic; it is preoccupied with process; and it is client-ignorant. Every year, it gobbles more of our tax dollars without any incentive to cut costs or streamline itself.

The American welfare monopoly has also undercut the efforts of private organizations. It has made it nearly impossible for charities to place conditions on their aid, when prospective recipients can walk down to the local wel-

fare office and pick up a government check, no strings attached.

It has almost singlehandedly created what the Wall Street Journal's John Fund calls the I-gave-at-the-office syndrome. In fact, the portion of charitable giving in this country devoted to alleviating poverty has declined by a shocking one-third since 1960.

So the question remains: How should we reform the welfare delivery system? Our bill, like many others, would consolidate dozens of overlapping, inefficient Federal programs and put that money into a State block grant. However, it also provides for a choice-in-welfare tax credit that would give individual citizens a voice in how this country fights poverty. Under our plan, every taxpaying American would be free to direct up to 10 percent of their Federal income taxes to a charitable organization in their community that is engaged in antipoverty efforts. Each time a taxpayer claimed this credit, the Federal Government would make a corresponding reduction in their State's block grant—thereby making it revenue neutral.

The Federal Government already has a regulatory framework for overseeing nonprofit organizations, minimizing the need for additional bureaucracy. However, State governments often have a more active oversight program, so we would require that participating charities obtain State tax-exempt status as well.

In addition, to ensure that tax credit contributions are reaching the people they're intended to serve, it would be necessary to establish guidelines for participating charitable organizations. For instance, charities would be prohibited from using the proceeds to engage in lobbying or litigation activities. We would also require that at least 70 percent of a participating charity's expenses be allocated directly to the poor. And charities would be required to expand tax credit-generated contributions within 1 year of receipt.

To maintain the separation of church and state, religious organizations must have a subsidiary devoted to social welfare to be eligible. Organizations that have a religious component, but are primarily focused on social welfare—i.e., Salvation Army—would be eligible as well.

Finally, to guard against possible fraud, taxpayers themselves would not be allowed to donate tax credit-funded contributions to charities in which they have a financial interest.

Our funding mechanism is a revolving account within the Treasury Department that would hold the vast majority of the money the Federal Government intends to spend on poverty in the next fiscal year. Once Congress appropriated the money for this account, a small portion would be set aside to cover the cost of the tax credit, and the rest would be given to the States in block grant form. After April 15, any funds left in the tax credit set-aside would be given to States as a bonus.

It is important to note that the tax credit/block grant funding mechanism will be separated at the State level. For instance, Michigan's total Federal grant would be determined by how many of its citizens gave to in-state, qualified charitable organizations. This is to ensure that the effects of competition are always tangible.

There are a few other provisions worth noting.

First, we phase in the tax credit over a 5-year period to ensure that the transition to a public/private partnership is a gradual one.